



Giving Live Music a Good Home

Diaspora from the La Soiree Concert Series

Hosted at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester

Reviewed by Yvonne Cawley August 2010

To say I was 'blown away' by the evening's experience is a little bit of an understatement!

I was invited along to La Soiree's concert featuring Diaspora on Friday 27 August at the Cross

Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester. Now I've lived and worked in Manchester all my life but had no idea where the Unitarian Chapel was. Also I must confess that Jazz isn't really my cup of tea, but hey, I'm as open minded as the next gal and so was prepared to give it a shot - gets me out of the house!

Arriving at the venue I was surprised that I had walked passed this building lots of times without really 'seeing' it or realising that it was a place of worship. The entrance is modern and light and extremely welcoming. We were greeted by a couple of friendly ladies who offered us a free glass of very palatable wine and told to make ourselves at home. Whatever picture you have in your mind of what a 'church' is, well rip up that picture.

The interior is stunning - a large white circular room with high ceilings giving a complete feeling of space and relaxation. There are large, grand pillars around the room along with windows dotted around to introduce natural light. The seating was laid out in a relaxed informal style with tables adorned with candles and a few 'nibbles'. People were happy to sit and chat with new arrivals and the whole place had the feeling of being at someone's houseparty.



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